

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Preliminary Amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi KONDO et al.

By Michael S. Huppert

Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
for Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krl
Washington, D.C.
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 19, 2001

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975